

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 (original): A composite, metal and plastic pipe assembly, comprising: first and second metal pipes having respective first and second ends; a first plastic cuff positioned around the circumference of the first pipe end, the first cuff having an annular groove defined between radially inner and outer walls of the first cuff and extending in a longitudinal direction of the first pipe and receiving the first pipe end therein; a second plastic cuff positioned around the circumference of the second pipe end, the second cuff having an annular groove defined between radially inner and outer walls of the second cuff and extending in a longitudinal direction of the second pipe and receiving the second pipe end therein; the first cuff forming a spigot member extending around the circumference of the first pipe end and the second cuff forming a bell member extending around the circumference of the second pipe end; and substantially the entire first cuff being inserted into the second cuff, thereby forming a mating bell and spigot coupling.

2 (currently amended): Components for a composite metal and plastic pipe assembly, comprising: first and second metal pipes having respective first and second ends; a plastic spigot cuff formed around the circumference of the first pipe end, the plastic spigot cuff having an annular groove defined between radially inner and outer walls of the ~~first cuff~~ plastic spigot cuff and extending in a longitudinal direction of the first pipe and receiving the first pipe end therein, and a plastic bell cuff formed around the circumference of the second pipe end, the plastic bell cuff having an annular groove defined between radially inner and outer walls of the ~~second cuff~~ plastic bell cuff and extending in a longitudinal direction of the second pipe and receiving the second pipe end therein, the sizes of the bell and spigot cuffs being adapted for inserting substantially the entire spigot cuff into the bell

11 cuff to thereby form a coupling between the spigot cuff and the bell cuff and between the
12 first metal pipe and the second metal pipe when the spigot cuff is inserted into the bell cuff.

1 3 (previously presented): The pipe assembly of claim 1, further comprising: a plastic
2 coating formed on the first pipe; a plastic coating formed on the second pipe; a first plastic
3 weld joining the first plastic cuff to the plastic coating on the end of the first pipe; and a
4 second plastic weld joining the second plastic cuff to the plastic coating on the end of the
5 second pipe.

1 4 (previously presented): The pipe assembly of claim 1, the first plastic cuff having a
2 metal core embedded therein and the second plastic cuff having a metal core embedded
3 therein.

1 5 (canceled).